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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01 OC-05 COME-00

BIB-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 FPC-01 INT-05

OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 DOTE-00

AGR-05 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /138 W
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R 021620Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7345

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS 4247

USUN NEW YORK 327

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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, ECIN, IV, UV, NG, DM, TO

SUB: ENTENTE SUMMIT MEETING IN IVORY COAST

ENTENTE WAS HELD IN IVORY COAST FEB 26-27. DECISIONS

WERE TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM, TELCOMMUNICATIONS,

MINERAL RESEARCH, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

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1. ATTENDING THE FIVE-NATION SUMMIT MEETING WERE THREE
CHIEFS OF STATE, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST, SEYNI

KOUNTCHE OF NIGER, AND GNASSINGBE EYADEMA OF TOGO. BENIN WAS REPRESENTED BY LT.COL. BARTHELEMY OHOUENS, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, WHILE CAPT. LEONARD KALMOGO, MINISTER OF PLAN REPRESENTED UPPER VOLTA. THE SUMMIT WAS HELD IN YAMOUSSOUKRO, HOMETOWN OF THE GOIC PRESIDENT.

2. THE SUMMIT WAS PRECEDED BY A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OF THE FIVE MEMBER COUNTRIES FEBRUARY 24-26 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROLOGY OF NIGER, MOUNKEILA AROUNA. THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WENT SWIFTLY THROUGH A 13-POINT AGENDA OF ASSORTED TECNICAL AND COOPERATION MATTERS INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR HARMONIZING TOURIST REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUNTING, CUSTIONS AND IMMIGRATION, CREATION OF A COMMISSION FOR MINING AND GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION, COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES IN THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY, AND A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE MUTUAL AID AND LOAN GUARANTY FUND OF THE ENTENTE.

3.THE SUMMIT ITSELF WAS ESSENTIALLY A QUICKLY ACCOMPLISHED RATISFICATION OF THE WORK OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE MAJORITY OF CHIEFS OF STATE OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVED AT YAMOUSSOUKRO BEFORE NOON FEBRUARY 26, MET LATER IN THE DAY FROM 4:30 TO 7:00 P.M. AND LEFT THE NEXT MORNING FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

4. SPECIFIC ACTIONS ANNOUNCED, AS LISTED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. MINING: A MINING AND GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE ACTION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES IN THIS FIELD:

B. TRANSPORT. THE CHIEFS OF STATE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO ROAD LINKS AND TRANPORT OF MERCHANDISE BETWEEN STATES, THE CONVENTION ON WHICH SUBJECT IS IN PROCESS OF RATIFICATION AMOUNT FIVE STATES;

C. DEVELOPMENT OF ARRICAN ENTERPRISES. THIS BEING ONE OF THE PRIORITIES OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, THE CHIEFS OF STATE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE RESULTS ACHIEVED THUS FAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AND CALL ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO INCREASE HIS EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD;

D. CULTURAL AFFARIS. A MINISTERIAL MEETING OF MINISTERS CONCERNED WILL BE HELD TO FORMULATE A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION IN THIS SPHERE;

3. INFORMATION. A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED AND AN EXCHNAGE CENTER TO BE BASED IN LOME FORMED WITH A VIEW TO INCREASEING COOPERATION IN THE INFORMATION FIELD SUCH AS CO-PRODUCTION OF BROADCASTS, COMMON PURHCASE OF EQUIPMENT, AND HARMONIZATION OF SYSTEMS;

F. TOURISM. AN INTER-STATE TOURISM COMMITTEE WILL WORK ON PROMOTING TOURISM THROUGH HARMONIZING REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CUSTOMS, HUNTING, AND OTHER FORMALITIES, AS WELL AS COOPERATING ON NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES MATTERS. THE IVORY COAST SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NATIONAL PARKS WILL CHAIR THE COMMITTEE.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED IN CLOSING THAT TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA NOW ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ENTENTE (FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER).

4. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH ENTENTE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY PAUL KAYA, AMBASSADOR HAD CONFIRMATION THAT THE MEETINGS HAD INDEED GONE SMOOTHLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, KAYA SAID THERE WAS NO FRICTION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN AND OTHERS. ON ENTENTE FUND PROJECTS, KAYA SOUGHT TO PRESENT REPORTS ON COMPLETED OR ON-GOING PROJECTS AND NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON PLANNED ONES, SO AS TO AVOID HAVING MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF STATE GET TOO INVOLVED IN DETAILS. HE SAID MINISTERS AND CHIEFS WERE WELL SATISFIED WITH ALL THE ENTENTE FUND PROJECTS, EXCEPT THAT THEY VERY MUCH HOPE FOR AN EXTENSION OF ANOTHER TWO YEARS OF THE PHILCO-FORD EXPERTISE ON THE RRMTTC PROJECT IN LOME; THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN REPLACE THE AMERICAN CONTRACT EXPERTS AS SOON AS JUNE, 1976 WHEN AID FINANCING IS DUE TO TERMINATE. KAYA WILL BE MAKING A DEMARCHE ALONG THESE LINES TO AID/W NEXT WEEK IN WASHDC.

5. COMMENT: THE SWIFT CONCLUSION OF THE SUMMIT, AS WELL AS THE LOW-KEY NATURE OF THE FORMALITIES SURROUND IT, EMPHASIZE THAT OVER THE YEARS THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE ENTENTE AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OR ORGANIZATION HAS DECLINED WHILE THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WORK GOES QUIETLY ON. SUMMIT MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS HAVE BECOME LESS FREQUENT AS FOUNDING HEADS OF STATE HAVE DISAPPEARED AND SUCCESSORS HAVE TAKEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COURSES ON DIFFERENT AND OCCASIONALLY CONFLICTING PATHS. NEVERTHELESS IVORIANS ARE PROUD THAT THIS OLDEST REGIONAL AFRICAN ORGANIZATION FORMED UNDER HOUPHOUET'S TUTELAGE LIVES ON DESPITE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG MEMBER STATES AND IS ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS QUIET BUT EFFECTIVE WORK OF MODEST ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SPHERES OF COMMON INTEREST.
SMITH

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